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Retailer gets the OK to liquidate its stock. Page 7.

Chipman drops the gloves with Bowman

Development. True North boss says mayor knew of Carlton hotel plan months ago

COLIN FAST
Metro World News

True North chairman Mark Chipman Wednesday. COLIN FAST/FOR METRO

Mark Chipman has admitted he had the inside track on buying a controversial piece of downtown land, but claimed Mayor Brian Bowman has known for months about a plan to develop the site.

During a news conference at the MTS Centre on Wednesday, the True North chairman said while he was on the board of CentreVenture last year, he learned a deal to build a hotel at 220 Carlton St. — as part of the Convention Centre expansion — was in danger of falling apart.

Chipman said he recused himself from further discussion, quit the board and eventually cut a deal with CentreVenture on an option to buy the land and combine it with other property along Carlton Street to build a $400 million hotel, office and residential complex.

Despite the fact he was sole-sourced the land — while there was still an agreement in place to build a convention hotel there — Chipman said he was just trying to solve a problem for the city.

"To allege we've done something wrong is inexplicable," said Chipman, who added he's "disappointed" in Bowman's objections to the deal.

Bowman acknowledged he and provincial cabinet minister Kevin Chief did see a video about the project in November during a casual visit to Chipman's office. At the time, Bowman said he had no idea an issue was brewing at 220 Carlton St., and was told the video was about a project at 225 Carlton St.

"The issue council is dealing with has nothing to do with the developer," said Bowman. "True North has done a lot of great things for this community and I have a lot of respect for Mark Chipman."

Now that city council has ordered CentreVenture to open 220 Carlton St. to bids from other developers, Chipman said he's putting his project on hold.

"Unfortunately … when you propose to develop real estate in this community that has any public involvement, you're presumed to be doing something untoward," Chipman said. "We can't and won't operate in that kind of environment."

BROTHER BEAR

Humphrey the polar bear plays with his present on his first birthday last year at the Toronto Zoo. The cub, who is Hudson's younger brother, is moving from Toronto to the Journey to Churchill exhibit at Assiniboine Zoo. See story, page 5. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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NEWS 1

Council and CentreVenture form joint working group

Politics. Report, due back in 120 days, to include consultations with stakeholders

BERNICE PONTANILLA
bernice.pontanilla@metronews.ca

A joint working group was struck on Wednesday between CentreVenture and councillors on the city's executive policy committee to study how the development agency should function in the future.

This comes on the heels of a two-week feud over a deal for the site of the former Carlton Inn that has included nasty public exchanges in meetings and through media outlets.

Mayor Brian Bowman announced the working group during Wednesday morning's EPC meeting just as Angela Mathieson, the newly hired president and CEO of CentreVenture, began her 30-minute presentation to the committee.

The working group will include councillors John Orlikow, Brian Mayes and Janice Lukes.

Mathieson not only welcomed the initiative, she also said she's begun her own review of CentreVenture to see what's working, what isn't and how to bolster accountability.

"My job is to look at the projects for the future, to ensure that the corporation is on a sound footing, and that we have the trust and the relationship (with the city) going forward."

Bowman said the working group, which has 120 days to come back with a report, will seek input from "a number of stakeholders," including the city's administration, business community, elected officials and anyone else who has an idea.

"We want to hear from CentreVenture, we want to hear from all stakeholders on how we can do a better job."

Bowman said he continues to see a role for CentreVenture in downtown's development.

Angela Mathieson of CentreVenture said after Wednesday's EPC meeting that she does see her role as one of mending fences. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Moving forward

In a Feb. 2 letter to the mayor and council, Curt Vossen, chairman of CentreVenture's board, said they're committed to "turning the page," but are also concerned with the way CentreVenture has been characterized.

- "All parties, including CentreVenture, have acknowledged a number of process and communication errors, but the original course of action taken by CentreVenture was done in a transparent manner with the city, in the manner we had always done," wrote Vossen.

Bowman 'optimistic' about mayors' meeting

While in Toronto, Mayor Brian Bowman intends to rally his big-city counterparts for better funding of municipalities from the other levels of government.

"I'm optimistic about what the big-city mayors can accomplish by working together and I'm looking forward to having those discussions in Toronto," Bowman said Wednesday morning before departing for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' conference. "Many of the big cities share similar challenges — funding revenues is one of them — and so we need to be better co-ordinated."

Bowman said he's shared his concerns with mayors Naheed Nenshi of Calgary, Don Iveson of Edmonton and Gregor Robertson of Vancouver, and is eager to meet Toronto Mayor John Tory.

"I'd like to have a greater impact in the discussion that Canadians will be having in the lead-up and during the federal election campaign. We've got a leadership race happening right now for the NDP and ultimately for the premier's chair," Bowman added.

"I absolutely intend on leveraging the good work and co-ordination of my counterparts in the other big cities to really get that discussion going. That's something I campaigned on and I expect I'll have much more to say about that in due course."

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Mayor Brian Bowman
BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

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University of Manitoba computer science graduate student Chris Iverach-Brereton works on Jennifer, the robot built by the school's Autonomous Agents Laboratory that can now ski after gaining attention three years ago when she learned to skate. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Robot set to rule humanoid sports

Technology. Former University of Manitoba hockey star programmed to cross-country and downhill ski

The world's first ice-skating robot hasn't been just sitting on her central processing unit watching the accolades roll in since her skills on the ice earned a gold medal and national media attention nearly three years ago — she's been learning a whole new sport.

Jennifer, the University of Manitoba Autonomous Agents Laboratory's robot hockey star, is now taking up cross-country and downhill skiing.

"Of course some of the students now want to do ski jumping, but we don't want to do that because the robot is too expensive," chuckled lab co-director Jacky Baltes of the $12,000 doll-sized robot named after Winnipeg's own Jennifer Botterill.

"Sure it's expensive ... but if students do interesting work with it and it breaks I'd rather have that than it sitting in pristine condition in the cupboard."

And of course she doesn't hit the slopes without her hockey helmet on.

Students began programming Jennifer to ski late last month, according to computer science graduate student Chris Iverach-Brereton, who's been working with the robot since she arrived at the lab four years ago. Iverach-Brereton said teaching her to ski couldn't have happened without first getting her on the ice skating, and then teaching her to balance herself on a specially built plank that sits on a rolling cylinder.

"The goal is to get her to do some kind of a slalom course," explained Iverach-Brereton, who hand built the robot's skis and poles with his dad. "To be able to do the sharp turns needed in slalom she'll have to plant the pole or at least use it to cause some drag."

The team won the ICRA DARwIn-OP Humanoid Application Challenge in 2012, and it hopes Jennifer's skills on the slopes will help it win gold again this year. On Wednesday, Jennifer's new skills created international buzz — after viral website Mashable picked up the video and featured it.

New Democrat calls for plan to block rebel candidate

A Manitoba New Democrat is calling for two leadership candidates to co-operate in an effort to block Theresa Oswald from winning the party helm and the premier's chair.

Rob Altemeyer, a longtime backbencher who represents the Wolseley constituency in Winnipeg, wants the campaign teams of Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger and former cabinet minister Steve Ashton to agree on joint slates of delegates at selection meetings that are to occur over the next three weeks.

Each of the 57 constituency associations is electing delegates who will then vote for the party leader March 8. Ashton and Selinger's teams should work together, at least in those constituencies where Oswald might otherwise win, Altemeyer said Wednesday.

"Given the enormous damage that the five former ministers (who challenged Selinger's leadership last fall) and the Oswald campaign have done to the party ... a little bit of co-operation at the constituency level between local Selinger and Ashton supporters is entirely fair game."

Altemeyer urged Wolseley NDP members in a constituency letter last month to vote for either Ashton or Selinger. In a new letter Wednesday, Altemeyer accused Oswald and her supporters of attempting a leadership coup at the party's expense.

"I think the inner circle of the Oswald campaign has been planning this for months — if not years in advance — and have a complete disregard for the negative impacts of their actions on others or the party as a whole," the letter says.

Oswald was not available for an interview Wednesday on Altemeyer's plan. Her campaign spokeswoman issued a written statement which hinted Oswald was staying out of the fray.

"From the outset, Theresa has pledged to run a respectful campaign true to New Democratic values," Jodee Mason wrote.

"Every member will decide who they want to be the next leader, and we will respect all decisions."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I think the inner circle of the Oswald campaign has been planning this for months — if not years in advance — and have a complete disregard for the negative impacts of their actions on others or the party as a whole."

Manitoba New Democrat Rob Altemeyer accusing Theresa Oswald of attempting a leadership coup at the party's expense

Employment

EPC backs improving whistleblower protection for civic staffers

The city's executive policy committee has backed a motion that may lead to improved whistleblower protection at the municipal level.

The committee voted unanimously Wednesday in favour of St. Boniface Coun. Matt Allard's motion asking the provincial government to amend the city's charter for this protection or include civic employees in the Public Interest Disclosure Act (whistleblower protection).

The motion also calls for the inclusion of fraud, theft or related irregularities information of new staff's orientation.

"The protections for whistleblowers at the City of Winnipeg seem to be very weak, the wording right now is, as I understand it, is human resource policy that basically says that people should not lose their jobs," Allard told members of EPC during the meeting, adding that civic employees should have the same protection as their provincial counterparts.

"After doing a bit of digging, making a few phone calls to the ombudsman's office and doing a bit of research, it became evident to me that other than this human resources directive, there didn't seem to be much in terms of protection for City of Winnipeg workers."

Mayor Brian Bowman, who seconded Allard's motion, said this protection will help city workers "to look out for Winnipeg's best interests."

The motion now moves on to city council.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

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Public warning

Possible scam ad printed in local papers

A possible investment scan advertised in Winnipeg newspapers has triggered a public warning.

The Manitoba Securities Commission (MSC) said on Wednesday a group calling itself the Ecovexco Investment Group has been advertising a "no-risk" investment opportunity.

The investments they promise are "unrealistically high" in return value, said the MSC, and the group is not registered to conduct business in the province.

Investors who believe they have been approached with an investment fraud or who have been defrauded should call 1-855-FRAUD-MB to file a complaint or speak with an investigator.

METRO

Crime

Woman charged after home invasion

A woman has been charged in connection to a violent home invasion in the Maples last fall.

Two armed suspects confronted the occupants of a home in the 800 block of Sheppard Street just after midnight Oct. 18. After demanding cash and prescription medication, a 60-year-old victim sustained non-life-threatening injuries to the upper body. The suspects fled.

After a lengthy investigation by the major crimes unit, warrants were issued for a male and female suspect.

Crystal Marie Sanderson, 32, was arrested Jan. 31 and is charged with breaking, entering and commiting robbery, possession of a weapon, disguise with intent and two counts of robbery. Police are still looking for the male suspect. METRO

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Dog abuser gets lesser fine in appeal

Animal cruelty. Judge lowers fine by $6,500; upholds five-year ban on owning animals

A Manitoba woman involved in a horrific case of animal cruelty has caught a break in court.

A judge has reduced the fines Judith Chernecki must pay to $15,000 from $21,500.

The fines were imposed after she and her husband Peter pleaded guilty in connection with 63 dogs being seized from their Gull Lake property in 2010.

The dogs were kept in dark, damp outbuildings and 34 of the animals were in such bad shape they had to be euthanized.

Peter Chernecki served a four-month prison term.

The judge in the appeal ruled against the couple's bid to have a five-year ban on owning animals reduced.

Judith Chernecki must pay the $15,000 within five years from the time of sentencing and meet other payment deadlines or she could face up to three months in prison. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oakbank

Five horses killed in barn fire

Five horses have been killed in a barn fire near Winnipeg.

The blaze broke out overnight in Oakbank, a few kilometres east of the city.

There is a family living on the property, but no one was hurt.

Jeff Hudson, acting fire chief with the Rural Municipality of Springfield, says the horses had no chance to escape from the flames. Hudson adds that a few cats may have been killed as well.

There is no immediate word on the cause of the fire, or a damage estimate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Partially built gas bar burns

No one was injured in an early morning blaze at a gas station being built in south Winnipeg Wednesday. Fire crews were called to the Co-op gas station currently under construction on Kenaston Boulevard, south of Bishop Grandin Boulevard in the new Bridgwater development around 4:20 a.m. The cause is under investigation and a damage estimate wasn't immediately available. METRO

Workers' daily grind core of Napalm Death album

Apex Predator.
Metal-with-message album takes on 2013 Savar factory collapse

BACKSTAGE PASS
Jared Story
winnipeg@metronews.ca

It's safe to say none of Napalm Death's tour T-shirts are made in Bangladesh.

The English grindcore group's 15th studio album, Apex Predator — Easy Meat, was sparked by the 2013 Rana Plaza garment factory collapse in Savar, Bangladesh, which resulted in the death of more than 1,100 workers.

"It just seemed to me it was headline news for a day and then it quickly slipped down the agenda, which suggested to me that maybe these lives were considered a bit cheaper," said vocalist Mark (Barney) Greenway. "Those people are making goods for the Western market. It's actually within our universe, so it maybe makes us in some ways ashamed and therefore wanting to kick it into the long grass."

Napalm Death's message might get a little lost in Greenway's guttural growls and high-pitched shrieks, but Apex Predator's album art says it all. The cover features a supermarket-style plastic tray containing, according to its sticker, "Tenderized chunks of a weakling."

"The entrails inside is the 'easy meat.' That's the people who supply the product, basically encased in their own misery," Greenway said.

Greenway said he hopes Apex Predator — Easy Meat opens a few eyes to the issue of worker conditions overseas.

"People can make more informed buying choices," Greenway said. "This mindset that everything has to be cheap, well, someone always pays the price somewhere down the line.

"But I'm not pointing fingers at the consumer, because they're faced with their own choices. I think there should be a culture change at the top and I think it should be legislated so certain practices are not allowed. There needs to be an international monitoring system that works effectively, not just the annual visit to the factories."

Show details

Napalm Death plays at The Zoo on Thursday, Feb. 12. Doors open at 6 p.m.

- Quebec metal band Voivod co-headlines the show. Exhumed, Iron Reagan and Black Crown Initiate are also on the bill.
- Tickets are $25 at ticketfly.com and ticketworkshop.com.

Pioneering metal bands Napalm Death, pictured, and Voivod bring their Through Space and Grind tour to Winnipeg on Feb. 12. CONTRIBUTED

Record label? No, I have my fans

Winnipeg roots artist Romi Mayes raised more than $33,000 for her new album through crowdfunding and other donations between October and December. COURTESY MIKE LATSCHISLAW

Musicians have always needed deep pockets to fund their recordings, but these days, many independent artists — Winnipeg roots singer-guitarist Romi Mayes among them — are turning their album dreams into hi-fi reality through the magic of crowdfunding.

"No one understands financial strain more than a musician (ha!)," wrote Mayes in her Indiegogo appeal.

Mayes is currently at Private Ear Recording with producer Grant Siemens (of Corb Lund's Hurtin' Albertans), laying down tracks for Devil On Both Shoulders, her first new release in more than four years.

From October to December, she raised more than $33,000 for the new album through crowdfunding and donations that were mailed in or given to her at shows.

"I got to know my fan base one by one, over many years of touring," she said.

"They had been saying for a few years to let them know if I needed anything, that they wanted to help in any way they could."

Album details

Devil On Both Shoulders will deliver a cool "JJ Cale, Beatles, Stones groove," said Winnipeg roots singer-guitarist Romi Mayes.

- She promised the album will be released in May.

The money takes care of everything an album entails, from paying the producer and studio and engineer to mixing, mastering, manufacturing and publicity.

"Albums are so much more expensive to make than anyone can imagine," she said. "For indie artists who are their own label, we don't have anyone footing the bill or fronting the costs. Banks don't give out loans for musicians wanting to make albums.

"In essence, the crowdfunding model offered a chance to have my fans and friends act as my record label." NIGEL MOORE/FOR METRO

Assiniboine Park Zoo.
Bear brothers to reunite

And then they were seven.

Hudson's younger brother, Humphrey, will be coming to Assiniboine Park Zoo sometime during the next few weeks.

"This is very exciting news for us here at the Assiniboine Park Zoo, and we are thrilled to welcome Humphrey and have him join our other polar bears in the Journey to Churchill exhibit," said director of zoological operations Brian Joseph in a news release.

"He's just as lovable as his older brother Hudson, and we can't wait for the community to meet him."

Humphrey comes from the Toronto Zoo, where the 15-month-old cub has spent his life.

The Toronto Zoo posted a farewell on its website.

"The Toronto Zoo is proud to have had a role in the raising of Humphrey the polar bear and to have witnessed his growth from a newborn to a healthy, one-year-old polar bear," they said. "We wish him all the best in his new home!"

Hudson got his start at the Toronto Zoo as well before being moved to the Journey to Churchill Exhibit. With Hudson, there will now be seven bears, including Storm, Aurora, Star, Blizzard and Kaska. ELISHA DACEY/METRO

Humphrey at the Toronto Zoo late last year. DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO FILE

Terror suspect Awso Peshdary now under communication ban

Terror trial. Prosecutor says there are concerns of possible witness interference

Terrorism suspect Awso Peshdary has been barred — at least for the moment — from communicating with several people, partly due to Crown fears of witness intimidation.

The 25-year-old Ottawa man made an initial court appearance Wednesday following his arrest the day before on four charges, including participation in the activities of a terrorist group.

Two other Ottawa men — accused of joining extremists overseas — were also charged with terror-related offences, even though their whereabouts are unknown and one is reportedly dead.

Peshdary's lawyer, Richard Morris, said his client intends to plead not guilty.

"He's doing as well as can be expected," Morris said after the hearing in Ottawa.

Suspects

The non-communication order also covers twin brothers Ashton and Carlos Larmond as well as Suliman Mohamed — who were arrested in January as part of an alleged terrorist conspiracy. The RCMP moved quickly to arrest Carlos at the Montreal airport as he was about to board a plane overseas.

- Though there are now terrorism charges against six young men from Ottawa, Federal prosecutor Rod Sonley played down the notion of direct connections between the arrests.
- "I don't want to leave you with the impression that Mr. Awso Peshdary is directly involved in the alleged offences against Ashton Larmond. They're different proceedings," said Sonley.

Morris argued in court there was not enough information to grant the non-communication order, saying he was "still in the dark" as to the reasoning behind it.

Federal prosecutor Rod Sonley said the order was needed to prevent interference with a dozen or so individuals — including members of the Muslim students association at Ottawa's Algonquin College — who might be witnesses or otherwise figure in the case.

Sonley told a justice of the peace there was "more than sufficient" basis for the order and "no evidence to the contrary."

The resulting court order, which will be revisited at a hearing Monday, covers Peshdary's co-accused — John Maguire, 24, and Khadar Khalib, 23 — both of whom the RCMP consider active members of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

The extremist organization has been on a vicious, atrocity-riddled rampage across large portions of the Middle East, and is the target of a U.S.-led combat mission in Iraq by a coalition of countries, including Canada.

Peshdary was an associate of Maguire and once hoped to travel abroad with him, according to the RCMP. They believe Peshdary stayed in contact with Maguire, and together they entered into a conspiracy to send other Canadians to Syria to join ISIL.

Peshdary and Maguire collaborated with Khalib, who travelled to Syria at the end of March 2014 to join ISIL, the Mounties say.

Morris expressed concern Wednesday that he knew little about the charges against his client and that he was not allowed into an RCMP news conference Tuesday where his client's arrest was announced.

"I think it speaks poorly of the process when they're more concerned with press releases than they are with my client's constitutional rights," Morris said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Richard Morris, lawyer for terrorist suspect Awso Peshdary, speaks to media outside the Ottawa Courthouse on Wednesday after an appearance by his client. Peshdary is facing four charges, including participation in the activities of a terrorist group. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hitting back. Jordan rallies support for tougher strikes

Jordan's king rushed home Wednesday, cutting short a U.S. trip, to rally public support for even tougher strikes against ISIL after the militants released a video showing a captured Jordanian pilot being burned to death in a cage.

The gruesome killing of 26-year-old Lt. Muath Al-Kaseasbeh, captured while participating in airstrikes by a U.S.-led coalition targeting the militants, sparked outrage across the Middle East and anti-ISIL protests in Jordan.

King Abdullah II, a staunch Western ally, returned home from a White House meeting with President Barack Obama during which both leaders affirmed their resolve to destroy the militants who have seized about one-third of Syria and Iraq.

Jordan believes the international community must intensify the campaign against ISIL, said government spokesman Mohammed al-Momani. "This evil can and should be defeated," he said.

Following the pilot's death, Jordan launched what it said would be a tough campaign against the Islamic State group. In a first response, Jordan executed Sajida al-Rishawi and Ziad al-Karbouly, two Iraqis linked to al-Qaida, government spokesman Mohammed al-Momani said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S.-Cuba relations

U.S. won't return Guantanamo base

United States President Barack Obama's administration on Wednesday ruled out handing over the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, rejecting a central demand of Cuban President Raul Castro for restoring normal relations between the two countries.

Roberta Jacobson, the top U.S. diplomat for Latin America, also said the U.S. would continue transmitting radio and television broadcasts into Cuba that are opposed by Castro's government.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Growth of Asian airlines creates safety challenge

The deadly crash of a TransAsia plane into a river in Taiwan is again focusing the world's attention on the safety challenges facing fast-growing Asian airlines.

TransAsia has been adding new routes rapidly since the Taiwanese carrier went public in 2011. TransAsia and others like it are rushing to keep up with a travel boom driven by the region's growing middle class.

The ease and increasing affordability of flying helps fuel economic growth and a better lifestyle for Asian consumers. But as airlines carry more passengers across increasingly crowded skies, they are also racing to train enough pilots.

"The demand is almost exceeding the supply," says John M. Cox, who spent 25 years flying for US Airways and is now CEO of consultancy Safety Operating Systems.

Quickly-growing airlines need to maintain standards as they hire more pilots, maintenance workers, dispatchers and flight attendants. Cox says the Asian carriers are currently meeting those marks, but it's a big challenge.

TransAsia Airways Flight 235 crashed Wednesday shortly after takeoff from Taipei, Taiwan, with 58 people aboard. Dramatic video from a car's dashboard camera captured the moment that the plane, tilting madly, clipped a bridge before landing in a shallow river. At least 26 people were killed.

It was the second fatal accident in just over six months for the airline and its seventh serious accident in the past two decades, according aerospace publication Flightglobal. It comes barely a month after an AirAsia plane crashed into the Java Sea in a flight from Surabaya, Indonesia, to Singapore, killing all 162 aboard.

As Southeast Asia's economies grow, more people have money to travel and airlines are adding planes to whisk them across the region.

Aircraft manufactures Airbus, ATR, Boeing, Bombardier and Embraer delivered a whopping 1,543 new planes to airlines last year. That means a total of 30 planes rolled off their collective assembly lines every week — the fastest production rate in the history of commercial aviation. Most of those aircraft went to Asia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this combination photo, a series of images taken from video provided by TVBS show a commercial airplane clipping an elevated roadway Wednesday just before it careens into a river in Taipei, Taiwan. TVBS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France

Monopoly giving out real money to mark anniversary

You can pass go, get out of jail free and collect real money. The French version of Monopoly is celebrating its 80th year by slipping cash into 80 boxes of the game.

One box will have the full complement in real money — 20,580 euros (about $29,500) — as well as the Monopoly money needed to actually play the game, one of the most popular in France. Another 79 boxes will have smaller amounts, according to Hasbro.

The Paris version lets players buy the Champs Elysees, four railroad stations and other famous avenues of the French capital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
79.59¢ (-1.08¢)

TSX
14,995.65 (-67.23)

OIL
$48.45 US (- $4.60)

GOLD
$1,264.50 US (+$4.20)

Natural gas: $2.662 US (-9.2¢)
Dow Jones: 17,673.02 (+6.62)

Court OKs Target liquidation sale

Discounts. Prices up to 30 per cent off expected to start on Thursday

Target stores are expected to start liquidating stock Thursday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shoppers can expect their local Target Canada stores to begin knocking down prices starting Thursday, after the retailer received court approval to liquidate its stock.

The company got the go ahead following a hearing Wednesday involving dozens of lawyers representing the retailer, landlords and suppliers. Target spokeswoman Molly Snyder said discounts will take up to 30 per cent off regular prices.

Already many Target stores have stopped carrying perishables like milk, eggs and frozen foods, Snyder said.

The company is still clearing product out of its distribution centres, she added.

The court had yet to decide late Wednesday whether Target can begin the sales of its real-estate assets.

The retailer and its liquidator have argued that it needs to sell the properties immediately to keep its speedy exit from the Canadian market on schedule for mid-May.

Landlords were concerned that Target's liquidation sales would tarnish the image of their malls and take away business from other stores who are renting space.

"I think all parties are exaggerating," Ontario Superior Court Justice Geoffrey Morawetz said.

In addition to its remaining inventory, Target's shelving, fixtures and equipment will also be sold.

The U.S.-based retailer announced last month that it would close all 133 of its Canadian stores and lay off more than 17,000 staff, just two years after it began opening stores in Canada.

Some of those reductions have already happened at its Toronto headquarters, where its 770-person staff has been reduced to about 80 people, Snyder said.

The company took over old Zellers locations and began to open under the Target banner in Canada for the first time in March 2013 but failed to deliver on customer expectations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alibaba founder Jack Ma is all smiles as China's biggest e-commerce company gets listed on the New York Stock Exchange in September last year — the world's largest public offering. JEWEL SAMAD/AFP

China. Alibaba takes on Amazon in drone delivery

Echoing U.S. online retailer Amazon, Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba on Wednesday tested a drone delivery service, promising to whisk ginger tea to customers within an hour despite close controls on airspace.

Alibaba's flagship consumer-to-consumer platform Taobao, estimated to hold more than 90 percent of the Chinese market, showed off a photo of a black and silver drone with helicopter-like propellers carrying a white box to launch the service.

But the option is confined to just three days and a few areas of three Chinese megacities — the capital Beijing, commercial hub Shanghai and Guangzhou in the south — and applies only to one brand of tea from one particular vendor, with a limit of 450 deliveries in total.

The drone launch comes a week after a powerful government regulator found only about a third of products sampled from Alibaba's e-commerce platforms, including Taobao, were genuine. AFP

New rules for tracking aircraft

A top official with the International Civil Aviation Organization says it is moving quickly to create a standard that will help in the global tracking of commercial aircraft — especially over water.

During normal operations, an aircraft will be tracked every 15 minutes over oceanic or remote areas. When the aircraft is in distress, it would start to broadcast its position every minute.

ICAO's member states unanimously supported the new standard at a safety conference in Montreal.

The global tracking recommendation is one of several made in the wake of the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 last March. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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VOICES

TO SAVE CANCON, WE NEED TO KILL IT

This year, CTV was able to force its cable and satellite partners to replace big-ticket American commercials with Canadian substitutes during broadcasts of the Super Bowl. In 2017, this won't be allowed. Metro's Matt LaForge wonders what else the CRTC will do to please Canadian viewers and what the culture stands to gain — and lose — in the deal

MATT LAFORGE
readers@metronews.ca

American Super Bowl commercials are here to herald the end of Canadian TV as we know it. This could be just what we need.

Last week we learned that for the 2017 Super Bowl broadcast, CRTC won't allow CTV to sub its Canadian clients' ads for the prestigious American-produced spots (a practice known as simultaneous substitution). It was surprising news, but maybe it shouldn't have been.

On the broadcast file, the Conservative government, to whom the CRTC answers, has been willing to give consumers what they want, even if it means sticking it to media conglomerates (recall the promise to unbundle cable packages in the 2013 throne speech).

The Super Bowl-commercial ruling is to date the most resolute enactment of the government's agenda. It scratches an itch that Canadian viewers have been whining about for years, and it means CTV's parent conglomerate will miss out on a lot of advertising revenue.

Precisely why the Tories are so keen to provide Canadians with the widest entertainment menu at the best prices is a worthwhile question, evoking as it potentially does the lessons of books like Brave New World and Amusing Ourselves to Death.

But we won't know the full answer without the benefit of real hindsight, and in any case the more salient question right now is the classic one: What happens next?

First, let's stipulate that the new trend isn't going to reverse itself any time soon. While a lot of sentimental lip service is paid in this country to cultural nationalism and to the abstract idea of safeguarding a place in the media marketplace for Canadian stories and songs, the on-the-ground view of the CRTC's Cancon regime is at best indifferent and at worst deeply cynical. There's a pervasive sense, at least within the demographic cohort to which I belong (youngish urbanites with lifelong media addictions and delusions of worldliness), that the Cancon game is rigged in favour of the suits and that half-baked, second-rate content is being knowingly passed off as world-class. Commonly heard in my world:

"Why would I watch that movie? It's Canadian."

"Are the Geminis the movie awards or the TV awards?"

"Who is this on the radio? Hedley? Wow. Our tax dollars at work."

"I miss Republic of Doyle. Just kidding."

So to the extent that the new policy represents the government's intention to take away a subsidy that has been perennially squandered on embarrassing mediocrity, there are lots of people who are all for it.

A man puts up a missing puppy and Clydesdale poster in this still from Budweiser's Super Bowl commercial. SCREENGRAB

The horse is out of the barn, and it's difficult to envision the next federal government, Conservative or otherwise, trying very hard to chase it.

But before we dance on the graves of the media makers and hail the era of the media takers, let's admit a second set of stipulations: That cultural nationalism is not an inherently empty concept and that deregulating the country's airwaves entirely would rob us of something that, in the present fog of simultaneous substitution and Mr. D reruns, we're taking for granted. This is true even at the level of Super Bowl commercials, where for every instance of low-stakes whimsy (e.g., Budweiser's puppy-and-Clydesdale from the 2014 broadcast), there's a more self-serious spot that overtly trades in American mythmaking (e.g., The 2013 ad in which Eminem drives around Detroit and foretells the city's inevitable Phoenix-like rise). To push out Canadian commercials, no matter how derivative or hokey, in favour of corporate America's fables about a culture that we're not a part of is to submit to a colonizer that might not even realize or care that it's colonizing.

This, of course, is what made the Cancon movement necessary in the first place.

Damned if we deregulate, damned if we don't. I don't say it lightly, but, of the two, deregulating might be the way to go — not as an end, but as a means.

The ill will toward Cancon is so ingrained and so toxic; we need a radical change to reverse it. In an unregulated media market, Canadians would be given a much-needed opportunity to rediscover what it is that the U.S. can never give us.

We would remember one particularly prescient Canadian telling us that you don't know what you've got till it's gone. In such a climate, a new and improved cultural-nationalism movement could take root and establish a system of promotion and protection that takes into account all the mistakes of the past.

If American Super Bowl ads are the first steps in the undo that leads to the redo, then let it rain Budweiser frogs.

Matt La Forge is Metro's managing editor of Canada, world and business.

Our cities need to be ready for extreme weather

STEPHANIE ORFORD
readers@metronews.ca

As extreme weather assaults Canada again, climate change is hitting close to home.

Flooding, like we've seen in Calgary and southern Manitoba, and extreme winter storms, like the one Halifax is currently experiencing, continue to affect millions of Canadians, and the weather is only going to get wilder.

Canadian cities need to act more quickly to prevent the costly and potentially tragic fallout from the erratic weather that's inevitably coming.

We need to create a national dialogue about protecting Canada's cities from extreme weather, and deal with problems before they start.

Cleaning up after the fact is outrageously expensive. The 2013 flood in Calgary cost $6 billion. Toronto spent more than $106 million repairing its damaged infrastructure after the 2013 ice storm.

According to a study published in Nature Climate Change last week, global warming is increasing the number of droughts across the U.S. and floods across countries in the western Pacific. It's one of many such studies showing increasing weather extremes worldwide.

A major culprit of all this chaos is rising ocean temperatures, making strong storms stronger and weak storms weaker, said a study published last Thursday in Science by atmospheric scientists at the University of Toronto.

While we need to tackle the root causes of climate change causing these rising temperatures, we also need to be ready for when disaster strikes.

We've taken some steps toward preparing our cities, but they're often buried in government reports or hidden behind closed doors, far from public.

Some cities have made positive initial moves.

Calgary is in the process of building a reservoir for runoff from the Elbow River to prevent future flooding.

The City of Toronto has created an action plan for protecting the city from damaging weather, including making sure drainage systems are widened and trees are pruned to reduce power line damage.

But these actions seem like small potatoes.

Will they prevent Canadian cities from grinding to a halt in a power outage, or thousands of people from losing their homes to a flood?

If we want our cities to withstand climate change, those who understand what we need to upgrade and how we can take action (engineers! urban planners!) should take leadership, speak out and help inform policymakers and the public.

If we want to protect our cities from climate change, everyone needs to be a part of the conversation.

Stephanie Orford is a writer based in Vancouver.

metro

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Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Conrad Hilton GETTY IMAGES

Sorry Conrad Hilton, fighting 'peasants' is so passé

Well, this is completely charming.

Conrad Hilton, younger brother of Paris and namesake of his hotel magnate grandfather, appeared in court this week to face charges he assaulted and intimidated several flight attendants on a trip from London to L.A. last summer.

According to an FBI affidavit, Hilton punched a bulkhead, nearly hitting a flight attendant, appeared delusional and erratic and had to be restrained for landing.

He also dropped the F-bomb some 25 times, and here are probably the best two of those times: "If you want to square up to me, bro, then bring it and I will f—ing fight you" and — my favourite — "I will f—ing own anyone on this flight. They are f—ing peasants."

Ah, the noble class.

Hilton also threatened to get the entire crew fired because "I know your boss!"

And worst of all, he delayed drink service on the flight by 40 minutes.

That is just not cool, bro.

Hilton was released on a $100,000 bond and will be back for arraignment next month.

His charges could land him in prison for as much as 20 years.

Tatum unleashes Magic Mike XXL trailer: You're welcome

Ladies of Tampa, this might be a good reason to take a personal day. The first trailer for Magic Mike XXL, this summer's sequel to the hit Channing Tatum stripperfest, is out. Sure, there's no Matthew McConaughey in this one, but is that such a problem? So, how does it look? Let's just say Tatum clearly spent more time in the gym before this than he did Jupiter Ascending. The poor guy can't even get any welding done without slipping into a hip-thrusting dance routine. As the trailer boldly states, you're welcome.

The Magic Mike XXL movie poster. CONTRIBUTED

The Wachowskis aren't phased by your trolling

Andy and Lana Wachowski have heard what you've said about Cloud Atlas, Speed Racer and the Matrix sequels — and what you're already saying about Jupiter Ascending — and you know what? They don't care.

"I've gotten a thicker skin when it comes to Internet searches on our art," Andy said in an interview that refers to talk of their new science-fiction film a "torrent of pessimism."

Yikes. Oh, and they're also not too worried about box-office receipts.

"The cultural obsession with equating a movie's success to its box office is incredibly damning to this industry," Andy insists.

"It's pushing the industry more and more to making pure product, which is another reason why you constantly have reboots. It's McDonald's. People know what they're going to sit down and watch. Inherently, it's unhealthy for your brain."

Andy and Lana Wachowski GETTY IMAGES

SCENE

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Finding the funny in unhappily ever after

Relationships. 500 Dates author chronicles 19 years of online dating disasters — and asks why romantic advice is skewed toward women

Mark Miller has survived 19 years of online dating since his 1995 divorce, yet he still has a smile on his face.

There's much to hate about the process, the Los Angeles-based humorist said in a recent interview, but he refuses to despair as he continues his hunt for true love. One thing that does bum him out, though, is how so much dating advice seems skewed to women.

That's why he decided to share his quest for ever after in a collection of essays called 500 Dates out this week from Skyhorse Publishing in time for that ultimate date night, Valentine's Day.

Miller, 62, isn't shy about poking fun at himself. He describes a dating disaster with accoutrements he purchased entirely from a 99-cent store. He's had sex way too soon after meeting someone, given up prematurely on relationships, stayed in relationships beyond their expiration dates and coveted his neighbour's wife.

Conversely, one of his dates showed up in her forest ranger uniform. Another admitted she was 15 years older than advertised in her dating profile, and a third made it clear that she found dating so soul-draining that he was her last-ditch attempt before she packed it in forever. It didn't work out. A conversation with Mark Miller about finding love online:

Author Mark Miller has written about his quest to find love online in a new book of essays called 500 Dates. ISTOCK

So how many dates are you up to now?
The 500 in the title is underestimating it. It would probably be closer to 750 if I was going to be honest about it. During that time I've found maybe seven fairy-tale endings that ranged from seven months to four years. I'm still looking.

How has happily ever after changed in the 21st century? You have a chapter where you write: "And they lived apart happily ever after is the new fairy tale ending."
I think that absence does make the heart grow fonder in many ways. I've spoken to a lot of people who date regularly and only see each other once a week. It's become more special, more datelike to them. There is such a thing as living together happily ever after but it doesn't happen for a lot of people, especially in this day and age.

Do men suffer from a lack of dating advice?
I think men are less prone to asking for that advice. They have more of an I-can-do-it-myself, more of a macho thing going on, whereas women are more open. If you do a search for dating books you'll find most of them are written either by women or for women. I think there was a void for men in that regard.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Short fiction. Discovering stories in everyday things

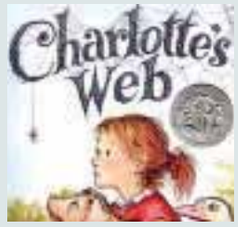
The very first short story Katherine Heiny ever published was in The New Yorker. Her first book, Single, Mellow, Carefree (out now) has Lena Dunham — among others — raving. We called Heiny up to get inside the brain of this wildly talented fiction writer.

The short stories in your book all take ordinary experiences, like a children's birthday party, and turn them into something exciting. Do you have a habit of creating stories about people you see every day in real life?
Oh, all the time. Ordinary things are really interesting to me. If I'm watching a reality show and people are fighting about who didn't get invited to a party, to me, that's fantastic. I think if you pay close attention to everyday things, they are often funny.

How does your writing process work?
When I start writing, I get the first line of the story and it always stays in the story, but it doesn't always stay as the first line. But there's always one line that sticks with me and the rest of the story will come over a few days. It takes me a month or more to write a short story ... I don't write chronologically; I write little scenes and then I have to put them together.

So many writers dream of being published in The New Yorker. How did that come about for you?
I wrote this story while I was in graduate school and sent it all over the place. I got 31 rejection letters. Then a friend of mine said, "What did The New Yorker say?" I told her I didn't send it there. She said, "Katherine, you're supposed to send it there first." So I mailed it off on a Thursday afternoon and they called Friday morning to accept it. I didn't even know the mail worked that fast. EMILY LAURENCE/METRO IN NEW YORK CITY

Digital publishing



E.B. White classics to be released as ebooks in March

Three E.B. White classics read by millions of parents to their children will soon be available on the digital screen. HarperCollins said Wednesday that Charlotte's Web, Stuart Little and The Trumpet of the Swan can be purchased as ebooks starting March 17. White's granddaughter Martha White said family members had worried electronic sales would hurt business for their preferred format, paper. "After discussing this with our agent ... it's become apparent to us that ebooks complement sales of paper books, instead of replacing sales," White said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

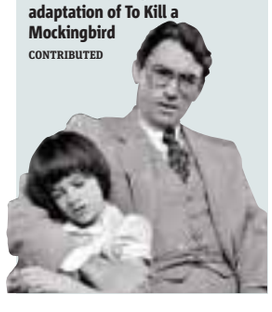
Film adaptation

New Harper Lee book could mean movie sequel

The movie version of To Kill a Mockingbird is the rare adaptation as beloved as its source material. So when Harper Lee and her publisher announced that this summer they'll release the 88-year-old author's second book, Go Set a Watchmen, a kind of sequel to To Kill a Mockingbird, the shockwaves were felt almost as much in Hollywood as in the book world. If Lee agrees to sell the movie rights to her new book, it will likely be one of the most eagerly sought novels for optioning to the big screen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gregory Peck and Mary Badham in the 1962 film adaptation of To Kill a Mockingbird
CONTRIBUTED



The journey from shredding to scribbling

New release. Skateboarder Michael Christie draws from his own life in a tale of a boy and his mother

EMILY LAURENCE
Metro World News in New York

Former professional skateboarder turned award-winning writer Michael Christie has book critics everywhere fawning over his new novel, If I Fall, If I Die (out Jan. 20).

The protagonist is 11-year-old Will, who is fiercely close to his agoraphobic mother.

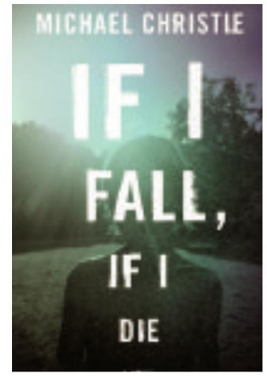
While his mom fears the outside world, Will is pulled toward it — especially when he discovers skateboarding — and the result is a heartfelt story of their relationship. The novel hits close to home, as Christie's own mother was agoraphobic.

Here, we talk to him about the four-year emotional process of getting Will's story down on paper.

Michael Christie says skateboarding and writing aren't all that different — they're both very individual and self-directed. CEDAR BOWERS

Writing requires a lot of energy, but it's a totally different type of energy than skateboarding.
I think everything (in life) prepares you for something else in some way. Skateboarding requires a sort of obsession. I think I just transferred that obsession from skateboarding to writing. It's all very self-directed, too. In skateboarding, there's no coach. There's no field. It's just you. You have to decide what to do and what you're capable of. Writing is the same way.

How much of the book is fiction, and how much is from your life?
A lot of the stuff in the book is different, but the emotional core of the book, which is this relationship between a mother and son that is maybe a little too close but is also kind of wonderful, that's very much the biggest relationship in my life, other than with my wife.

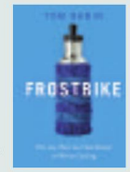


Did anything unexpected happen while you were writing it?
Yeah, I think if nothing unexpected happens while writing, then maybe you're in trouble. I didn't think you could write about skateboarding in a literary novel and connect with it. There's no movie, book or art about skateboarding that's actually good, so I was very wary of putting skateboarding in the book. But as I was doing it, I was like, is Will going to take up skateboarding? Is he going to do it? I think he is. I think I found a way to do it ... It was a scary book for me to write in many ways. I took a lot of emotional risks while doing it.

This isn't a traditional coming-of-age story, but it is still about coming of age. What do you think it means to grow up?
I think for everyone, there is a dramatic progression where you grow up in relative safety and we venture out, we get hurt, but we learn and grow that way. Growing up, there's a lot of facing fear, getting anxious and surviving things. That's what I wanted to capture.

New

Book celebrates all-season cycling



Frigid temps have the most diehard cyclists hiding out on transit and in their cars. But it doesn't have to be this way, according to Tom Babin, author of the recently published Frostbike (Rocky Mountain Books). The Calgary-based Babin set out to challenge the winter wariness that creeps into cyclist consciousness. He trekked to Oulu, a small city in northern Finland, where up to 30 per cent of the population ride their bikes through the winter on snow-packed paths. And he learned how the snow bike was born from the mind of an Alaskan winter mountain-bike racer and a Texas tire maker. Through his journey, Babin found the joys of pedalling through winter, and hopefully you will, too.
LIZ BROWN/METRO

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From farm to beauty cabinet

Style. A natural skincare expert explains why going organic is easier (and more effective) than you might think

TINA CHADHA
Metro New York

Wouldn't it be good to know that your glow has come naturally? ISTOCK

Don't kill us. You're about to rethink your favourite beauty products.

"A lot the ingredients (in cosmetics) are used in the car industry. Chemical emulsifiers, battery acids — and the sad part is, these ingredients aren't there to make you beautiful, but to make the product work," says natural skincare expert, Tata Harper.

"They are super-cheap industrial chemicals. But they make the formula feel amazing and last 12 years on the shelf without going bad."

The former industrial engineer spent five years working with biologist and chemists to perfect her high-performing, synthetic-free formulas. She now produces everything for her eponymous skincare line — from the botanical ingredients to packaging material — from her 1,200-acre certified organic farm in Vermont. We chatted with Harper about advances in natural beauty and when we should start slathering on anti-aging products.

For people who want to switch to natural products, where should they start?
Whether you're using natural or any other product, I always say start with things like cleansers, toners or masks. These are not a big financial commitment and will give you an idea on if you're going to like the products overall.

What natural ingredients are you loving?
The most impressive are the new neuropeptides. They basically give you the effects of Botox.

You feel complete relaxation of your muscle, obviously not of your full muscle, which is great because that way you don't lose expression in your face. But you get a relaxation of the wrinkle.

What are some advances in natural skincare right now?
Now you can find a lot of natural stem cells, which help regenerate the skin. Also, there's a lot of plumping ingredients. They're kind of like fillers but applied topically. And what happens is they go to your hypodermis, like your fat cells, and basically make your fat cells fatter and pump up the volume from within.

What's the most important part of a beauty regime?
There's nothing more important than serums or eye creams. Those two things are your real workhorses for the skin to drive collagen and anti-aging benefits. But the reality is if you don't clean your skin well and you don't exfoliate, 70 per cent of those serums are never going penetrate. A good cleansing, exfoliation is vital.

Make-it-yourself mask

" I love this mask. I've been doing it since I was a little kid," says Harper. "It's amazing for glow and clarity for the skin.

- "Mix together a half a cup of plain yogurt, it doesn't matter if it's Greek, strawberries, they have a high content of salicylic acids, so it helps with cellular turnover. Add in pineapple or papaya because they both have naturally occurring enzymes that help get rid of the buildup and clean the pores. Add two tablespoons of honey — especially raw honey. Blend it all together kind of like a really thick smoothie and apply. You can put it on your face, body, back. It basically helps bring immediate glow, moisturization and radiance."

I need me some natural

Rahua shampoo, $32

RMS eye polish in Solar $28

Mason Pearson brush, $120

Tata Harper Elixir Vitae, $365

Canadian street style

Name: Sheila

Age: 30

Occupation: Fashion stylist

What she's wearing
Forever 21 shoes, Oak & Fort T-shirt, Ann Taylor Cardigan, vintage coat, Ray Ban sunglasses, MinkPink scarf, Claire Vivier Bag.

Her inspiration
"I am inspired by menswear."

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Botanicals are in bloom

Great flowers start with pollination, and for that you need bees. Luxury label Burberry started off the revival, creating the buzz with its SS15 Ready to Wear collection which paid tribute to the insects and flowers of Britain. Coincidentally, at Paris Haute Couture week, flowers and florals were in fashion.

This past week, we learned that Chanel Director Karl Lagerfeld isn't the only designer with green fingers. Chanel's Spring flowering fashion featured gentle, curved silhouettes embellished with floral garlands, lush petals and beaded pistils. A colour palette of pinks, oranges, reds, electric blue, pollen yellow and sap green brought extra cheer to this upbeat collection.

There was no stopping Dutch design tandem Viktor&Rolf who pushed the flower trend to the limits. Bold 3D floral appliqué, graphic petal prints and abundant bouquet-esque babydoll dresses drew inspiration from flower-loving artist Van Gogh.

At the Alexis Mabille show, models wore sexy tattoo-inspired dresses with strategically placed creeping flower motifs that intertwined over the body. AFP

One of the latest specimens from Christian Dior's haute couture Spring garden. FRANCOIS GUILLOT / AFP

Best of show: 4 decor trends for spring

I recently returned from New York City where I attended the NYNOW Home & Lifestyle Show to view the latest decor products. I narrowed down the top four trends I kept seeing. Watch for these stylish looks coming to home decor stores this spring

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
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Tactile texture

Nubby silks, fur, chunky knits and braided items will add tactile texture to everything from rugs to pillows. Look for them in neutral colours that allow texture to be the star.

A super-thick wooden needle means you can make your own rug in less than an afternoon! DIY Crochet Aspen 32" Rug Kit, $235, Loopy-Mango.com

Pops of orange

Add life to that boring neutral sofa. Divisional Orange 20" pillow, $50, CB2.com

Who says the hottest trends have to break the bank? Constance Orange Accent Chair, $599, UrbanBarn.com

Colour kept popping up and the one that stood out the most was orange. Teamed with a sandy-beige tone to relax the jolt of citrus, orange feels juicy and spring-like.

Metallic copper

Although there were a lot of gold accents throughout the show, copper tones were trying hard to shine. Team copper with cream for summer and add it to black for a sexy look this fall.

Line them up or bunch them up to fit any space. Pascal Bunching Table, $269, CrateAnd-Barrel.com

Even the simplest shape deserves a little copper-tone glam. Porcelain & Copper Dipped Vase, $35, Chapters.Indigo.ca

Corral your books with a stylish trend. Blue Natural Agate Bookends, $138, Amazon.ca

Agate crystal

Slices of shiny stone, sparkling in blue, purple and green will be seen on items as tiny as napkins rings and as large as lamps.

Bonus trend

Christmas 2015 is going to be 'Retro 1965' so get digging in your parents' basement and check out spring yard sales this year.

- Think old pink, turquoise, silver, tinsel, light reflectors and bubble lights.

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Cookbook of the Week

Cross-country to your kitchen table

In his show, You Gotta Eat Here!, John Catucci travels across Canada on a journey to find the country's best comfort foods. Now he teams up with Michael Vlessides for a followup to their first book. You Gotta Eat Here Too! features recipes from restaurants across Canada that you may have never heard of — and the colourful characters behind the establishments. Among the recipes are Codfish Cakes from Chafe's Landing in St. John's and Jerk Chicken from The SmoQue Shack in Ottawa. METRO

There's comfort food, then there's this

Lunch or dinner. Indian Tacos replace the traditional soft or hard shell with unique doughy 'frybread'

"In this dish, frybread is topped with ground prime rib that's been cooked in a savoury stew with tomatoes, red kidney beans, and (chef) Brad's not-so-secret taco seasoning," write John Catucci and Michael Vlessides in You Gotta Eat Here Too! of the Indian Tacos that can be found at Burger Barn in Ohsweken, Six Nations of the Grand River Reserve, Ont.

Ingredients

Taco Seasoning
- 3 tbsp cornstarch
- 2 tbsp chili powder
- 1 tbsp salt
- 1 tbsp sweet paprika
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 2 1/4 tsp chicken soup base
- 1 1/2 tsp onion powder
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 3/4 tsp garlic powder
- 3/4 tsp cayenne pepper

Taco Meat
- 2 lbs ground prime rib beef
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter
- 1 can (14 oz) red kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (19 oz) stewed tomatoes, with juice

Frybread
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup buttermilk
- Canola oil

This recipe serves four. FROM YOU GOTTA EAT HERE TOO!

Taco Seasoning

1. In a bowl, combine all of the ingredients. Set aside.

Taco Meat

1. In skillet over medium-high heat, brown the ground beef with the butter. Drain any excess liquid. Add the kidney beans, stewed tomatoes, and 3 tablespoons of the prepared taco seasoning and stir to combine. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer for 45 minutes to allow flavours to meld.

Frybread

1. While the meat is cooking, in a medium bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, and salt. Stir in the buttermilk until the dough just comes together, adding more flour if dough is too sticky to handle.

2. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured work surface and knead until smooth (do not over-knead — less is more).

3. In a large, deep, heavy skillet over medium-high heat, heat 3/4 inch of oil.

4. Using your hands, tear dough into 8 to 10 equal-sized pieces, each about 3/4 cup (the size of a baseball). Shape into round discs about 1/4 inch thick, making a thinner depressed area in the centre of each.

5. Fry breads in hot oil until golden on both sides, turning once. Drain on paper towel.

Assembly

1. Scoop taco meat onto frybread and top with shredded cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, red onion, sour cream. RECIPES FROM YOU GOTTA EAT HERE TOO! LONE EAGLE ENTERTAINMENT LTD. PUBLISHER BY COLLINS CANADA. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

For your phone

Mixed Cocktails (iPad/iPhone/ Android; Free/ Registration)

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
scene@metronews.ca

There are more than 400 recipes in this Bacardi cocktail guide which includes gorgeous photography, unlockable badges, and a master class of mixologist techniques. Registration is needed for full access.

Beef Noodles for your Buddha belly

Ingredients
- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup sesame oil
- 1 tsp brown sugar
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1-inch piece ginger, chopped
- 1 tbsp oil
- 1/2 lb sirloin beef, sliced
- 1 large portobello mushroom, sliced
- 1 pkg (14 ounces) udon noodles
- 1/2 carrot, grated
- 2 tbsp green onion, chopped

This recipe serves two. FROM YOU GOTTA EAT HERE TOO!

This recipe, featured in You Gotta Eat Here Too!, comes from The Smokin' Buddha in Port Colborne, Ont. Write John Catucci and Michael Vlessides: "The Buddha's Korean Beef Noodles features a heaping mound of noodles tossed with slices of marinated sirloin, portobello mushrooms, and homemade bulgogi sauce."

1. In a small bowl, whisk together the soy sauce, sesame oil, brown sugar, garlic, and ginger.

2. Set aside. In a wok over medium heat, heat the oil. Stir-fry the beef and mushrooms until browned. Add the noodles and prepared sauce and cook, stirring constantly, until the noodles are softened. Add the carrots and simmer for about 1 minute.

3. Divide the noodles among serving bowls and garnish with the green onions.

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Boston toasts its Super Bowl champions

New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski chugs a beer, tossed to him by a fan, during a parade celebrating the team's fourth NFL title parade in Boston, Wednesday. The crowd roared as a smiling Bill Belichick and his players snapped selfies and took turns waving the Lombardi trophy earned in a hard-fought 28-24 Super Bowl victory over the defending champion Seattle Seahawks on Sunday. CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Window to trade Pavelec is closing

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Ronnie Shuker
winnipeg@metronews.ca

Now that the real Ondrej Pavelec is back, Jets fans are left to wonder what general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff and Co. are going to do.

Pavelec put in a decent night's work in Tuesday's 3-2 overtime loss to the Vancouver Canucks, a team they're battling with for a wild-card spot. The problem is that "decent" just doesn't get it done in the NHL.

Pavelec started the season strong thanks to the sheltering coach Paul Maurice gave him in the form of a hermetic defence. But that strategy came at the expense of offence, which was either at or near the bottom of the league in the early goings. It wasn't until defencemen started to fall — first Toby Enstrom, then Zach Bogosian, Jacob Trouba and Grant Clitsome — that Maurice had to change tactics and loosen the reins on the offence if he wanted to keep the Ws coming.

Jets goalie has allowed three or more goals in nine of his last 11 games. In that span he has a record of 3-3-5. JANA CHYTILOVA/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

It'd been working beautifully until recently.

The emergence of rookie Michael Hutchinson had been holding opponents at bay, since he gradually began taking over the starter's job from Pavelec. But that shine appears to be coming off after three straight losses and 13 goals allowed in that span. Meanwhile, since Bogosian went down with an injury in early December, Pavelec has started 11 games and allowed three or more goals in nine of them while posting a save percentage above .910 just twice. Unsurprisingly, his record is 3-3-5 in that time. And his season numbers of a 2.52 goals-against average and a .911 save percentage have been progressively drifting back to his career averages of 2.92 and .906, respectively.

If any of this comes as a surprise to Jets management, then the suits lack a basic understanding of statistics and goaltender development. Pavelec has had 7-1/2 seasons to prove he can be a legitimate No. 1 goalie in the NHL. Perhaps Cheveldayoff thinks Pavelec is the next Tim Thomas, who came into his own late in his career. At some point, however, patience just becomes a pathetic excuse on the part of management (see Oilers, Edmonton, as a prime example).

Pavelec could be a capable backup on a team with a long-standing No. 1 goalie, but the Jets need a better Plan B if Hutchinson is to remain their Plan A. Pavelec's $3.9-million cap hit for the next two seasons is an obstacle to trading him, but it's not immovable. With a little less than a month before the trade deadline, and the Jets' post-season chances hanging in the balance, the time to deal Pavelec is now.

By the numbers

.919

Ondrej Pavelec's 5-on-5 save percentage is .919, which ranks 43rd in the league. Backup goalie Michael Hutchinson ranks 13th at .936.

Court

Hernandez, slain man weren't close: Girlfriend

Former New England Patriots star Aaron Hernandez often smoked marijuana with the man he's accused of later killing, and they hung out during family gatherings, the victim's girlfriend testified Wednesday. But she insisted that they had only the beginnings of a friendship and were not very close, contrary to what Hernandez's lawyers have said.

Shaneah Jenkins, the girlfriend of victim Odin Lloyd and the sister of Hernandez's fiancee, testified for a third day about Lloyd's relationship with Hernandez. Lloyd was found dead in June 2013, shot at an industrial park near Hernandez's home in North Attleborough.

Hernandez's lawyers have said Hernandez had no reason to kill Lloyd and the two were friends. THE ASSOCIATED PRES

Golf

McIlroy settles dispute with former agents

Rory McIlroy reached a settlement with his former management company on Wednesday, cutting a multimillion-dollar deal to end their contract dispute and avoid a lengthy court case exposing the financial dealings of the world's top-ranked golfer.

Terms were not officially disclosed, but British media said McIlroy agreed to pay more than 13 million pounds ($24.8 million). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baseball

Delgado tops Canadian hall of fame's 2015 class

The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame's Class of 2015 will include former Toronto Blue Jays sluggers Carlos Delgado, Corey Koskie and Matt Stairs.

Longtime Montreal Expos manager Felipe Alou will also be inducted June 13, along with sportswriter Bob Elliott.

Delgado had eight consecutive 30-home-run campaigns with the Blue Jays. THE CANADIAN PRESS

When discipline doesn't come naturally

Evander Kane has been playing well through the Jets' rough patch but was still a healthy scratch in Tuesday's 3-2 loss in Vancouver. JUSTIN K. ALLER/GETTY IMAGES

ANDREW 'HUSTLER' PATERSON
winnipeg@metronews.ca

When the Winnipeg Jets rolled off five straight wins going into the NHL all-star break, before players bolted for a warm weekend away from the game, optimism for playoff hockey among fans was as high as it had been since NHL hockey returned to the 'Peg.

Now back at the MTS Centre and with just one point of a possible 10 in their last five games, the Jets find themselves looking to regain the form that helped them build a comfortable cushion in the Western Conference playoff race.

A highly anticipated visit from the powerhouse Chicago Blackhawks on Friday night begins an important stretch of divisional play, but the conversation leading into the game will be less about the Jets' recent slide or their 3-0 record against Chicago this season. Instead, it will undoubtedly be all about the player who calls himself "The Natural."

Evander Kane's benching on Tuesday night by head coach Paul Maurice for the second time in less than a year was a bombshell.

"Coach's decision" was the official word from the club, just as it was late last season in Toronto when Kane sat in the press box for a Saturday night game on Hockey Night in Canada.

And Tuesday was not just any game for No. 9. It was a return to Vancouver, his hometown, in front of many friends and family, in a very important game for his team.

Despite the four straight losses coming out of the break, Kane had been one of the team's best players over the stretch.

Make no mistake: this had nothing to do with Kane's play on the ice. This was a discipline issue, pure and simple. Compounding the situation is that the Jets currently have only 12 forwards on the roster. The late scratch forced Maurice to move Dustin Byfuglien, the Jets' best defenceman since his return to the point in December, up to forward. Byfuglien has been clear in his preference to play defence, and one assumes he wasn't thrilled to be moved up front for non-injury reasons.

A veteran coach like Maurice knows full well what comes with a decision like this: a media frenzy in Winnipeg and league-wide speculation of Kane's situation with the Jets and his future with the club. I'm sure GM Kevin Chevaldayoff's phone has been ringing off the hook since Tuesday night.

Coach Maurice will resist outing the player for the exact transgression, but it really doesn't matter. For Kane to be in the press box as a healthy scratch for a huge conference game in his hometown tells us all we need to know.

Show up for work, follow team rules and do your job, "Natural."

About Andrew

Lifelong Winnipegger and 24/7 sports junkie, Andrew "Hustler" Paterson hosts Hustler & Lawless and The Warmup weekdays from 3-6 p.m. on TSN1290 radio. Reach him on Twitter @hustlerama.

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UFC doping scandal not a one-off

MMA. The positive tests of Silva and Diaz expose a much larger issue for Dana White

After Saturday's UFC 183 main event at MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, the UFC revealed that Nick Diaz, left, tested positive for elevated marijuana levels and Anderson Silva, right, tested positive for steroids. STEVE MARCUS/GETTY IMAGES

The UFC is reeling from its latest doping scandal, but is it any surprise?

Looking for an edge, however slim, when you're stepping into a cage to fight seems inevitable. The gruelling training in advance of bouts also takes a toll, prompting shortcuts. And given fighters get paid only for competing, there is incentive to do what's needed to make it to fight night.

Still the latest doping scandal is a body blow to the MMA juggernaut given the star quality of the offender.

The UFC revealed Tuesday night that former middleweight champion Anderson Silva, one of the sport's icons, had tested positive for steroids on a Jan. 9 out-of-competition drug test. Adding to the scandal, Nick Diaz, the man Silva beat in the main event of UFC 183 last Saturday, had tested positive for elevated marijuana levels for a third time.

The news comes on the heels of a positive cocaine test prior to UFC 182 for light-heavyweight champion Jon 'Bones' Jones, who succeeded Silva as the sport's pound-for-pound best fighter.

"Does anyone in the UFC actually follow the rules?" former Olympic and world wrestling champion Jordan Burroughs tweeted.

The rules are enforced by bodies like the Nevada State Athletic Commission, which tests boxers and MMA fighters alike in regulating their sports.

While Silva and Diaz have yet to tell their side of the story and confirmation of the tests is still pending, a thin doping line runs through the sport. Other organizations are not exempt from cheating but the spotlight shines on the UFC as the sport's major player.

Welterweight Thiago Alves, German bantamweight Dennis Siver, Ashlee Evans-Smith … The list goes on, with a nine-month ban and fine the usual punishment for a first offence.

With 45 shows planned for 2015, the UFC conveyor belt never stops. The organization currently has 575 fighters under contract. Most need to fight to pay the bills.

Brazilian light-heavyweight Thiago Silva admitted to doping and tampering with his urine at a drug test in January 2011.

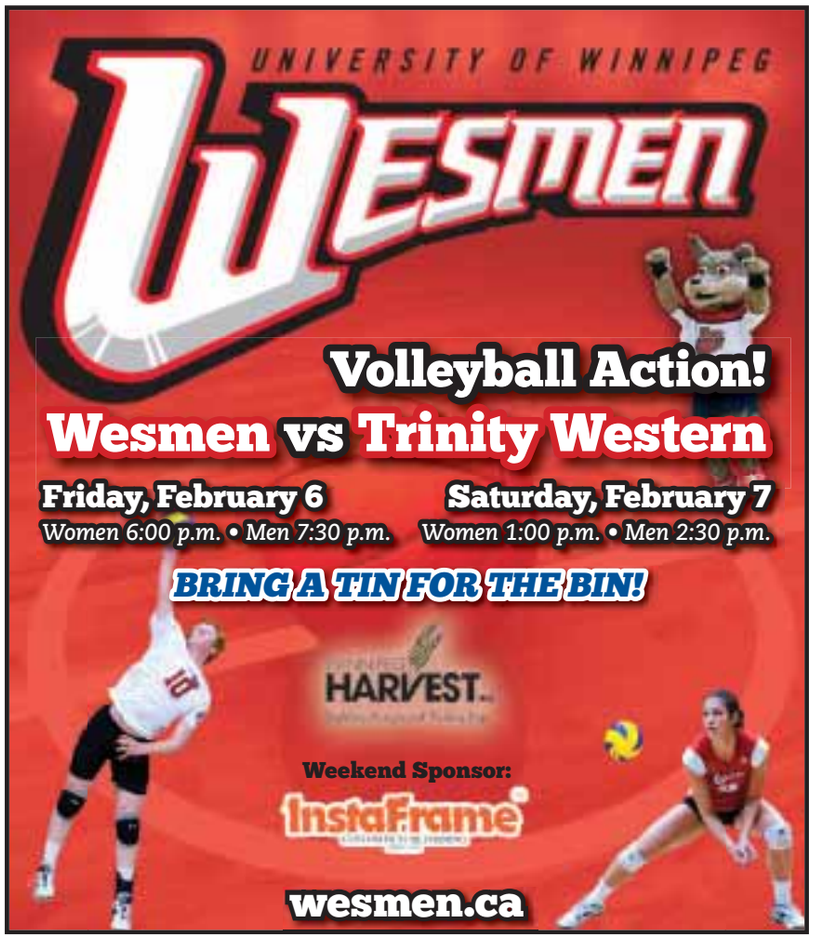
"I reinjured my back 45 days before the (UFC 125) fight with Brandon Vera. After not fighting for a year, I made the decision to not pull out of the fight."

UFC president Dana White said prior to UFC 182 that his organization, rather than launch its own full-time drug-testing program, would probably give athletic commissions more money for conducting tests.

Asked what the UFC will do in the future, he directed the questions to Marc Ratner, the UFC's vice-president of regulatory affairs. Ratner did not offer an immediate answer.

Given the sport's makeup, there may not be one.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



FA Cup

Coutinho's late goal saves Reds

Philippe Coutinho struck a stoppage-time winner for Liverpool as they beat Bolton 2-1 in the FA Cup fourth round replay on Wednesday.

Eidur Gudjohnsen converted a second-half penalty in the 59th minute. But, Raheem Sterling struck in the 86th and within minutes the Brazilian settled the match with a strike from outside the box.

The game marked captain Steven Gerrard's 700th appearance for Liverpool.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Predators get Rinne back

Predators goaltender Pekka Rinne has been cleared to return from a knee injury that kept him out the past three weeks, missing eight games.

Coach Peter Laviolette said after practice Wednesday that they pushed back Rinne's return to err on the side of caution, but he will start Thursday night against Anaheim.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Golf. Woods woes won't last long, says Mickelson

One player not concerned about Tiger Woods and his golf game is his longest rival Phil Mickelson.

Woods is coming off the worst score of his PGA Tour career, 82 last week in the Phoenix Open. He missed the cut by 12 shots. It was the first time in his career that he missed the cut in two straight tour events, though they were played six months apart. Most disconcerting was how badly his short game looked.

With analysis on overdrive, the immediate chatter has shifted from whether Woods will match the Jack Nicklaus record of 18 majors (Woods has 14) to whether he can win three more regular PGA Tour events and match the record 82 won by Sam Snead.

"I think that Tiger's going to have the last laugh," Mickelson said Wednesday. "I think that his short game, historically, is one of the best of all time. I think his golf game is probably the best of all time."

Mickelson said the short-game woes are understandable because of how little Woods has played. The Phoenix Open was only his second tournament in six months after taking a break to fully heal from back surgery and to regain his strength. During his time off, Woods began working with a new swing consultant, Chris Como.

Tiger Woods
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"I think the short game, when you haven't played, it's the first thing to feel uncomfortable and the quickest thing to get back," Mickelson said after his pro-am round at the Farmers Insurance Open. "I don't think he's going to have any problems, I really don't. I think we all — myself included — have had stretches where we feel a little uncomfortable. We don't hit it solid, and usually it's just a small tweak."

"I just don't see that lasting more than a week or two."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Don't be in so much of a hurry that you bite off more than you can chew today. If you have to ask for help it won't look too impressive, will it?

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You must tell the truth today, even if it hurts the feelings of people you love. It will hurt them more if they discover they were the only ones who did not know what was going on.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You need to make an important decision today and you need some peace and quiet so you can think and, hopefully, come to the correct conclusion.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You can't be expected to make an unbiased decision about something where your own interests are at stake. Either do what is best for yourself or ask a neutral third party for advice.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
It may be true that you have gone over the top and offended someone important but so what? If you go through life watching your every word you won't get much said.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You seem to believe that everyone is as honest as you. What happens today will open your eyes, in a big way, to the fact that that isn't the case.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You are on the verge of giving up on something that you can't seem to crack. What you don't realize is that you are closer to a breakthrough than you have ever been before. Hold on.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
It may annoy you that some people are so slow on the uptake but not everyone can be a big-brained Scorpio like you. Make allowances today.

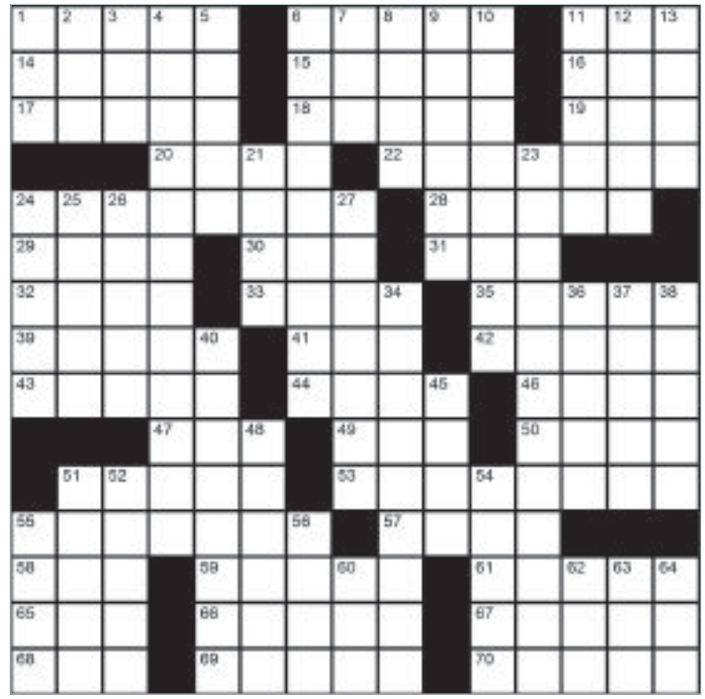
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If someone says you need to be cautious, act on their advice. It may not be your natural way but a few days from now you can make up for it by going to the other extreme.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Someone will make you a tempting offer today but if you are smart you'll demand more. According to the planets they want you on board so much they can probably be persuaded to up their offer substantially.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The danger today is that you could say something on the spur of the moment and get yourself in a whole load of trouble with authority figures.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You owe someone a favour and you'll be expected to repay it in the next 24 hours. They went out of their way. Do the same.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



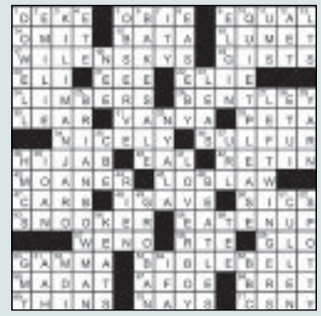
Across

1. Score-makers in hockey
6. The Divine __ _ (Bette Midler)
11. Appropriate
14. Rankin __, Nunavut
15. Prefix with 'arthritis'
16. Sonny & Cher
17. Everglades eeker!
18. On-the-road reversal
19. "All We __" by Kim Mitchell
20. Chess piece
22. Marked 'Received'
24. Architectural barriers
28. Having wings
29. __-friendly
30. Kind of power
31. Knight's title
32. Vesper __, "Casino Royale" (2006) character
33. Unfreeze
35. Move along rapidly
39. Slang-style friends
41. Religious song: "Lead __, _ King Eternal"
42. Mystery writer Dame Christie, informally
43. Boat's back
44. Donnybrook
46. Particles
47. '_' __ for Inuvik
49. "Cold Mountain" (2003) role
50. Roughly: 2 wds.
51. "Buffalo Stance" singer Ms. Cherry
53. Actress Amanda
55. 1988 Tracy Chapman hit: 2 wds.
57. Want
58. Fleur-de-__
59. Maynard G. __ (Beatnik on "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis")
61. Ambiguous
65. Ms. Longoria
66. Arctic boat
67. Matrikin
68. Actress Susan
69. "Grease" (1978) role
70. 'Mr.' or 'Mrs.' on "Three's Company"

Down

1. Showbiz job
2. 1996 Barenaked Ladies album: 'Born __ _ Pirate Ship'
3. __-Rock (Music genre)
4. Edith Prickley's signature outfit, __ __ jacket and hat
5. Guitar attachment
6. Peak in Auyuittuq National Park in Nunavut that's named after a Norse god: 2 wds.
7. 'Special' suffix
8. Mr. Townsend, et al.
9. Some mattresses
10. World's most famous painting: 2 wds.
11. Modify
12. Mush, recipes-style
13. Steel-__ boots
21. Left
23. Calgary Flames captain: 2 wds.
24. Parts of fruits
25. Heretofore: 2 wds.
26. 1960s song: "Walk Away __"
27. Ms. Twain's
34. 'Let's Be Ready' is a current album by what Toronto band, with The?: 2 wds.
36. Q. "What's composer Mr. Stravinsky's first name?" A. "__, _ believe."
37. Temporary hair colouring product
38. Do over the lawn
40. CBC's "Mr. D" actress Naomi
45. Mr. Diggs
48. Suraj __, "Life of Pi" (2012) star
51. Easily duped
52. Journalism piece
54. Flu symptom
55. Escaped
56. Rider's 'rope'
60. "Not __!" (Pretty good!)
62. Opening
63. Vehicle variety, Sport-__
64. Poet's 'always

Yesterday's Crossword

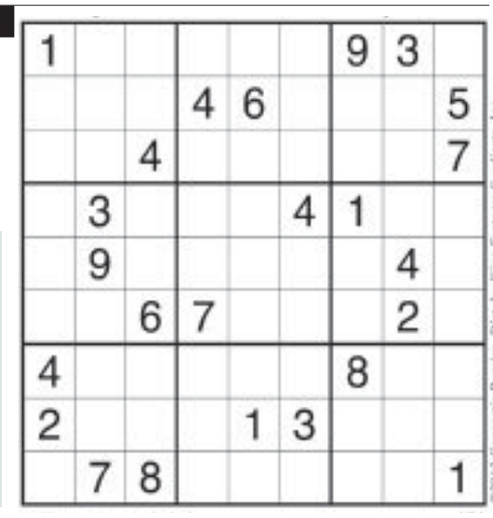


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

7	3	6	5	8	2	9	1	4
5	9	8	1	3	4	6	2	7
4	2	1	7	9	6	8	3	5
6	7	2	3	5	8	4	9	1
9	1	5	4	2	7	3	6	8
8	4	3	6	1	9	7	5	2
1	6	7	9	4	5	2	8	3
3	8	9	2	7	1	5	4	6
2	5	4	8	6	3	1	7	9

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- VERTICAL RISE: 229 m (750 feet)

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